# FARM NEWS

By J. A. Smith, County Agent

**Higher Seed Prices**

County farmers can expect to pay higher prices for seed during the next year.

The Soil Bank program is expected to increase seed demands. Red Clover seed was in short supply for the 1956 seeding year, and will continue short for the coming year. The supply of alfalfa, ladino clover and orchard grass seed available for 1957 seedings will average from 10 to 15 per cent less than last year. This supply situation, in addition to the increased demand expected from the Soil Bank program, is likely to put upward pressure on prices. The supply of crimson clover seed is considerably above the supply of last year, and likely will cost somewhat less. Farmers may find that they will save money by purchasing seed early.

**Fertilizer Prices May Drop**

On the brigher side, a slight drop in fertilizer prices during the 1955-56 crop year will likely continue in 1957. The price drop was the result mainly of increased nitrogen supplies. Nitrogen prices are likely to drop during the next crop year to the point that farmers should take a second look at nitrogen use on their farms. With the cost of other items used in production going up, many farmers will be able to use more fertilizer profitably, since fertilizer use may improve the efficiency in the use of other items.

Manufactured items, such as machinery and equipment, building supplies, fencing, etc., will generally carry higher price tags next year. With high wages in steel, coal, manufacturing and transportation, it is likely the cost of manufactured items will continue up. With price increases on new machinery, many farmers may profitably supply their needs by timely purchase of used equipment.

**Middleburg Pasture School**

The 1957 Middleburg Pasture School will be conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 26 and 27 at Middleburg Community Center in Middleburg with afternoon tours to the Pasture Station. The 26th will be "Livestock Day" and the 27th, "Dairy Day." An interesting program is being arranged with many outstanding speakers having been invited to attend this school. Additional information will be available later.

**Topdress Alfalfa for Higher Yields**

The most recent estimate on alfalfa yields in Virginia for 1956 gives the average yield per acre as 2.2 tons. This figure is the same as the ten year average.

The 2.2 tons per acre is low for the average yield of alfalfa. Many farmers are realizing more than twice that figure and the Experiment Station has consistently obtained yields of from 3 1-2 to 5 tons per acre.

Many factors including variety, soil conditions, insects and diseases contribute to this low yield, but the largest single factor is a lack of adequate plant food.

Because it has the ability to produce high yields, alfalfa uses plant nutrients more rapidly than other forage crops. A four ton yield per acre of alfalfa removes as much potash as is applied in 900 pounds of an 0-10-20 fertilizer. If yields are to remain high and stands are to stay vigorous, plant nutrients must be adequate. Alfalfa should be topdressed annually to insure an adequate supply of phosphate, potash and boron.

An 0-10-20 topdressed fertilizer applied at the rate of from 600 to 1,000 pounds per acre, or the equivalent in other analyses or single fertilizer materials is best for most conditions in the state.

**Special T VShow**

Many farmers will be interested in getting a look ahead as to the Outlook of Prices, Supplies and Cost they can anticipate in 1957. A panel of economists will present this information in a T.V. show scheduled as follows: WXEX - TV, Petersburg, 12:30 - 1:30 P. M., Saturday, January 5; WDBJ - TV, Roanoke: 8:00 - 9:00 A. M., Saturday, January 19.

**Some Reminders in Taxes**

On or before January 31, 1957—if you paid cash wages of $100 or more in 1956 to any employee in agricultural labor, send a return on Form 943 to the District Director, Internal Revenue Service, Richmond, Virginia, and pay the social security taxes you report on this form. List on this form the social security account number and name of each employee whom you paid $100 or more in cash wages during the year and the amount of such wages. For 1956 the F. I. C. A. tax rate is 4 per cent (2 per cent employer tax and 2 per cent employee tax.)

On or before January 31, 1957, (or when an employee leaves) Furnish to each employee to whom you paid $100 or more in cash wages a written statement of wages paid and taxes deducted during the year. If you desire printed forms for this purpose, the District Director will furnish you copies of SS-14 upon request.

On or before February 15, 1957—File your final Federal Income Tax return, and pay the total tax at that time. You will need Form 1040, Schedule F (Form 1040) and possibly Schedule D (Form 1040). However, if you want to delay filing your final Federal Income Tax return until April 15, 1957, then you should file a Declaration of Estimated Income Tax on Form 1040-ES) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 14, 1957, and pay the total tax at that time.

**LOBLOLLY PINES — A GOOD CROP!**

Above: Steve Messenger, Virginia Forest Service, examines a stand of 5 year old loblolly pines. This type pine will yield an average of one cord of pulp per acre, per year.

Pines are a perennial crop that will do well on land not being cultivated or in woodlands that have been cut over. They increase the value of property and provide a source of income if protected.

It is a crop that requires no cultivation, no fertilization, no work excepting the planting and harvest. Tree farming really is but a short time investment. In 15 - 18 years they produce their first pulp and again in approximately five years.

Appomattox farmers may secure help in establishing plantations this year. Pulp and paper companies are matching purchases, tree for tree. Cost for pines per thousand is $4.50.

**DARKLEAF**

(Continued from Page One)

your feet back on the ground sort out, each in its proper place of values of life. I am sure the lad pictured in this ad would agree that "Santa Claus is too big to come down the chimney—please open the door." I am equally certain that your voices the same sentiment when it says that "Christmas is when means to you," and I do hope somewhere along the line this Christmas you will find time to gather in a new spirit, a new and a new hope and with this mind, I say: "God Rest You

**TB GROUP URGES CHRISTAMS SEAL SALE**

An extra push for the annual Christmas Seals this week has been planned, with the Southside Tuberculosis Association still short of its $15,000 goal.

Mrs. Matthew H. Lyle, of Farmville, Va., President of the Southside Tuberculosis Association, said that "an all out effort will be made this week to spread the word and remind everyone to send in contributions."

# School News

**S. C. A. MINUTES**

Our third S. C. A. meeting was held Dec. 7. We had the presentation of the flag and sang one verse of The Star Spangled Banner. The minutes were read by the secretary, and approved.

Carol Gilbert, Peggy Lewis, Winifred Nash and Nancy Chaandirer gave their reports on the District S. C. A. meeting, which was held at Appomattox High School, Nov. 30.

The devotional was given by Dr. Carl A. Collins, Jr.

—Peggy Lewis, Reporter.

**Mrs. Hesson's 7th Grade 4-H**

Mrs. Hesson's 7th grade 4-H Club held its fourth meeting Dec. 11. The meeting was called to order and we stood and said the 4-H pledge. The secretary called the roll and read the minutes of the last meeting. Mr. Ayers showed some slides on how to beautify the yard. The Extension Agent gave out pamphlets on fruit, trees, plants, and shrubs. We were sorry to hear that Mr. Ayers and Miss Pancake will soon leave us. Miss Pancake is going to Louisa County, and Mr. Ayers, an officer in the Air Forces, was called for active duty.

—Dianne McCormick, Secretary.

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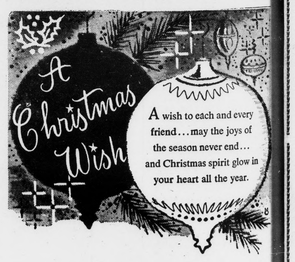


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# Tree Seedling Orders Top Goal

**"PLANT MORE TREES" GOAL IS REACHED**

A total of 23,683,375 forest tree seedlings has been sold for the 1956-57 tree planting season, which has just gotten underway, and additional orders sufficient to raise the total to at least 25 million trees are now being processed. According to I. E. Ward, chairman of the Governor's "Plant More Trees" committee, this means that the 25 million goal, which was established for the second year of the three-year planting program, has already been reached.

Information provided by the Virginia Division of Forestry indicated that the Charlottesville District was leading in number of seedlings sold to date with a total of 2,846,700. It was closely followed by the Farmville District with 2,-761,950; after which came the Tappahannock District with 1,910,800; Waverly, with 1,897,250; Richmond, 1,716,625; Salem, 727,600; Portsmouth, 397,250; Staunton, 214,-700, and Abingdon, 69,500. This represented a total of 11,863,375 seedlings ordered by farmers and other small landowners.

Larger orders from pulp and paper mills and lumber companies, and for use on state and national forests, totalled 11,820,000. Most of the industrial orders represent seedlings purchased for planting on company owned lands, but included those for giving away to landowners on a "free" or "matching" basis as well.

Total number of seedlings available for planting this season is approximately 29 million. This includes 27.5 million loblolly pine, 750,000 white pine, 600,000 shortleaf pine, and about 150,000 of other species such as yellow poplar, Virginia pine, black locust and red cedar. On the basis of present orders, this means that only 4 million trees are still available to fill orders that will be received by the Division of Forestry through the months of December, January, February, and March.

Seedlings are grown by the State in two nurseries — one at Charlottesville, with a capacity of only 3 million; and a much larger one near Providence Forge in New Kent County. Seedlings are available to landowners at a cost ranging from $4.50 delivered for 1,000 loblolly or shortleaf pine to $6.50 for white pine or yellow poplar. Orders should be sent directly to the State office of the Virginia Division of Forestry at Charlottesville, or to the various district offices mentioned above.

**HEALTH COMMISSIONER DISCUSSES HOLIDAY**

The Christmas holidays are visiting times. For your own sake and for other's, make it a safe time for children, elderly people and everyone.

Dr. Mack I. Shamholtz, State Health Commissioner, made this comment as he pointed out that home accidents will take their toll prior to, during, and immediately after Christmas holidays.

"Fires are among the worst dangers and tragedies of this season," he said, "with deaths from fire burns 75 per cent above average in the month of December. Three-fourths of these fatalities occur at home."

To prevent these accidents, the Commissioner offered several precautions:

1. Keep your Christmas tree in water when it is indoors.
2. Place your tree away from fireplaces and stoves.
3. Use tested lights in good repair. Don't overload electric circuits.
4. Provide plenty of ash trays for guests during the holidays.
5. Use nonflammable decorations and fresh greens around the house.
6. Remove tree and greens when needles start dropping.

Many accidents among children could be prevented if parents and friends would choose toys wisely, and train their children to use them safely. Keep in mind the age, ability and dexterity of the child.

A large number of injuries around the home are due to falls. Make things safe for your guests and your family by keeping ice and snow off the sidewalks, steps, and porches. When trimming the tree and the house, use a sturdy step-ladder or stool.

As a final word of warning, the Commissioner advised everyone to avoid the mad scramble of last minute preparations. "Tension mounts," he said, "with rush and hurry and this may contribute to accident occurrence. Allow ample time for each task you are doing and have an accident-free holiday."

**DWARF FRUIT TREES BOON TO HOME OWNER**

The development and improvement of dwarf fruit trees has proved a boon to home owners with limited space for fruit production, say horticulturists at VPI.

Dwarf apple and pear trees are widely available. The selection of varieties is much greater in apples than in pears. Peach, plum, cherry, apricot, and nectarine trees have not been produced extensively as dwarfs. But the standard trees of the stone fruits (except sweet cherries) are small in comparison with standard apple trees and can be restricted in size by pruning.

The horticulturists list several advantages of dwarf trees for the small-scale home grower: They usually begin to bear one to two years earlier than standard trees. Several varieties of fruit which ripen at different times of the year can be planted in the space needed for a standard tree. All the work around dwarfs can be done without the need for orchard machinery. Dwarfs can be pruned and trained as ornamentals in landscaping—on wires or trellises, against walls, or along a walk or drive. Dwarfing does not affect the size or quality of fruit.

Directions for planting and caring for dwarf fruit trees are included in a new U. S. Department of Agriculture Bulletin, "Dwarf Fruit Trees, Selection and Care." It is available for 5 cents a copy from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

The United States fleet in the Mediterranean, already the most powerful in the world, is to be beefed some more with the addition of more cruisers and aircraft carriers.

An emergency plan to supply western Europe with up to 1,100,000 barrels of oil daily has been ordered by the United States Government.

Holiday happiness is our sincere wish for all. May your hopes be fulfilled...may your joy be deep and lasting.

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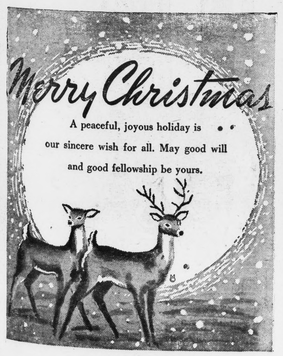


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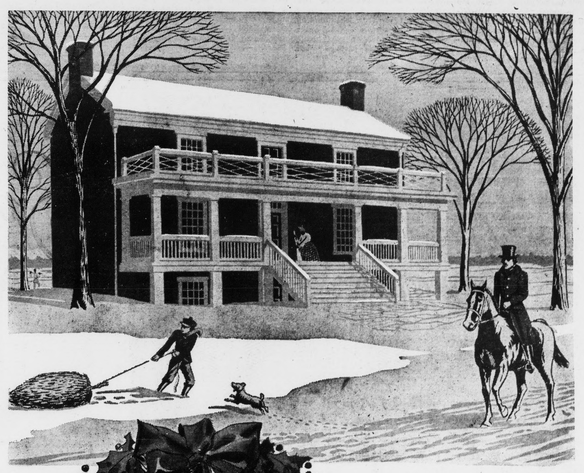

At the MacLean House at Appomattox, General Robert E. Lee and General Ulysses S. Grant met on April 9, 1865 — the first step in the reunion of our states into a great nation where the common brotherhood of man prevails.

Season's Greetings

The Officers and Staff of The Bank of Appomattox extend to you their sincerest wishes for the Holiday Season and a New Year filled with Happiness.

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(Note: Above McLean House Scene courtesy State-Planters Bank and Trust Company, Richmond, Va.)